

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine comprising:

a combustion chamber;

exhaust passage means for discharging to the outside exhaust gas from the combustion chamber, the exhaust passage means comprising an exhaust manifold having single pipe sections and a combined section, said single pipe sections and said combined section being connected together so as to extend in a longitudinal direction of the outboard motor;

an exhaust manifold cooling water jacket for cooling the exhaust manifold; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket;

wherein a water outlet is provided in the highest part of the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, and communicates with an opening that communicates with the outside at least when the engine is running, and

wherein a further water outlet is provided in the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, said water outlet and said further water outlet being provided around a portion of said exhaust manifold extending in the longitudinal direction of the outboard motor such that one of the water outlets is in front of the other of the water outlets in the longitudinal direction.

2. (Original) The outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine according to Claim 1 wherein the opening is a water check outlet for confirming the circulation of cooling water.

3. (Original) An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine comprising:

a combustion chamber;

exhaust passage means for discharging to the outside exhaust gas from the combustion chamber;

an exhaust manifold forming the exhaust passage means;

an exhaust manifold cooling water jacket for cooling the exhaust manifold;

a combustion chamber cooling water jacket that is connected to a downstream side of the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket and that cools the surroundings of the combustion chamber; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the water jackets;

wherein a water outlet is provided in the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, and communicates with an opening that communicates with the outside at least when the engine is running; and

wherein flow rate control means for controlling the flow rate of the cooling water is provided in the combustion chamber cooling water jacket.

4. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine comprising:

a combustion chamber;

exhaust passage means for discharging to the outside exhaust gas from the combustion chamber, the exhaust passage means comprising an exhaust manifold;

an exhaust manifold cooling water jacket for cooling the exhaust manifold; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket;

wherein a water outlet is provided in the highest part of the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, and communicates with an opening that communicates with the outside at least when the engine is running,

~~The outboard motor equipped with a water cooled engine according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the exhaust manifold is provided on one of the left and right sides of the outboard motor, and the opening is provided on the other side of the outboard motor.~~

5. (New) An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine comprising:

a combustion chamber;

exhaust passage means for discharging to the outside exhaust gas from the combustion chamber;

an exhaust manifold forming the exhaust passage means;

an exhaust manifold cooling water jacket for cooling the exhaust manifold;

a combustion chamber cooling water jacket that is connected to a downstream side of the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket and that cools the surroundings of the combustion chamber; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the water jackets;

wherein a water outlet is provided in the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, and communicates with an opening that communicates with the outside at least when the engine is running;

wherein flow rate control means for controlling the flow rate of the cooling water is provided in the combustion chamber cooling water jacket, and

wherein the exhaust manifold is provided on one of the left and right sides of the outboard motor, and the opening is provided on the other side of the outboard motor.

6. (New) An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled engine comprising:

a combustion chamber;

exhaust passage for discharging to the outside exhaust gas from the combustion chamber, the exhaust passage comprising an exhaust manifold having single pipe sections and a combined section, said single pipe sections and said combined section being connected together so as to extend in a longitudinal direction of the outboard motor;

an exhaust manifold cooling water jacket for cooling the exhaust manifold; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket;

wherein a water outlet is provided in the highest part of the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, and communicates with an opening that communicates with the outside at least when the engine is running, and

wherein a further water outlet is provided in the exhaust manifold cooling water jacket, said water outlet and said further water outlet being provided around a portion of said exhaust manifold extending in the longitudinal direction of the outboard motor such that one of the water outlets is in front of the other of the water outlets in the longitudinal direction.